

Exhibit I1

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3

4 Eastern Profit Corporation,)
5 Plaintiff,)
6 V.) Civil Action No.
7 Strategic Vision U.S., LLC,) 1:18 CV 02185
8 Defendant.)
9

10

11 C O N F I D E N T I A L

12

13

14 Videotaped Deposition of Bill Gertz

15 Tuesday, October 15, 2019

16

17 ATKINSON-BAKER, INC.
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21 Reported by: Jackie Smith

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1	E X H I B I T S			1	themselves. Counsel, please introduce yourselves
2				2	MS. KROPF: I am Sara Kropf. I
3	No.	Description	Page	3	represent the witness.
4	1	E Mail, 11 11 17	11	4	MS. LUETKEMEYER: Lucinda Luetkemeyer on
5	2	News Article	61	5	behalf of the defendant and counter claimant,
6	3	News Article	83	6	Strategic Vision.
7				7	MS. CLINE: Joanna Cline, Pepper
8				8	Hamilton, on behalf of Eastern Profit.
9				9	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Will the court
10				10	reporter please swear in the witness.
11				11	(Whereupon, witness was duly sworn.)
12	(EXHIBITS RETAINED)			12	BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
13				13	Q. Good morning, Mr. Gertz.
14				14	A. Good morning.
15				15	Q. We met earliest. I am Lucinda
16				16	Luetkemeyer and I represent, Strategic Vision, the
17				17	defendant in this action. You are here today for your
18				18	deposition.
19				19	Have you ever been deposed before?
20				20	A. Yes.
21				21	Q. And when was that?
Page 6				Page 8	
1	P R O C E E D I N G S			1	A. Many years ago.
2	(12:03 a.m.)			2	Q. Do you remember what action it was
3	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: I am Jeffrey Elam,			3	in?
4	your videographer, and I represent Atkinson Baker,			4	A. I don't.
5	Incorporated in Glendale, California.			5	Q. Okay. So if you have been deposed
6	I am not financially interested in this			6	before, it's fair to say that you understand what a
7	action, nor am I related or employed of any attorney			7	deposition is?
8	or any party. The date is October 15, 2019. The time			8	A. Yes.
9	is 12:03 p.m.			9	Q. You take an oath to tell the truth
10	This deposition is being taking place at			10	and you understand that's the whole truth to the full
11	Kropf Moseley PLLC, 1100 H Street, Suite 1220,			11	extent of your knowledge?
12	Washington, D.C. The Case is filed in the United			12	A. Yes.
13	States District Court for the Southern District of New			13	Q. If you answer a question that I ask,
14	York, Case No. 18 CV 2185(K) excuse me, (JGK),			14	I'm going to assume that you understood my question;
15	entitled Eastern Profit Corporation, Limited versus			15	is that fair?
16	Strategic Vision U.S., LLC.			16	A. Okay.
17	The deponent is Bill Gertz. This			17	Q. And if you need clarification or if I
18	deposition is being taken on behalf of the defendant.			18	speak too quickly, which sometimes I do, please just
19	Your court reporter is Jackie Smith from ELSS			19	ask me to rephrase it and I will.
20	Executive Reporting.			20	And I will also ask you to please give
21	Counsel will now please introduce			21	verbal answers like yes or no instead of um hum or uh
Page 7				Page 9	

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 huh, just so it's clear for the court reporter; is 2 that fair?</p> <p>3 A. Okay.</p> <p>4 Q. Mr. Gertz, I see that your Counsel 5 has provided me with one document that you brought 6 with you today.</p> <p>7 Do you have a copy of that in front of you?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>9 - - -</p> <p>10 (Exhibit No. 1 marked for identification.)</p> <p>11 - - -</p> <p>12 Q. I'm going to go ahead and mark this 13 as Exhibit 1. And what is this document, Mr. Gertz?</p> <p>14 A. It appears to be an e mail from 15 French Wallop.</p> <p>16 Q. And that's to you, correct?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. And this e mail is dated November 19 11th of 2017?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And do you remember what prompted</p>	<p>1 Q. And did you, in fact, use this Signal 2 ap to auto delete the messages that you received?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you know how long you had the setting 5 for, one day, ten minutes?</p> <p>6 A. No, I don't remember.</p> <p>7 Q. Do any of the messages with 8 Ms. Wallop remain on your Signal ap?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. What about messages with Mr. Waller?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you ever communicate with 13 Mr. Waller over Signal?</p> <p>14 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you ever use any encrypted 16 message Apps in this matter?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Did you ever communicate with 19 Mr. Guo via Signal?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. And do any of those</p>
Page 10	Page 12

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<p>1 Ap, to communicate with Mr. Guo?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay. Did you ever use What's Ap to</p> <p>4 communicate with Ms. Wallop?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. And do you have any hard copy</p> <p>7 documents in your possession related to this matter?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. Any handwritten notes?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. I don't think I have any more</p> <p>12 questions about this exhibit now, but we might come</p> <p>13 back to it later, so feel free to keep it in front of</p> <p>14 you. Thank you.</p> <p>15 Mr. Gertz, how did you prepare for today's</p> <p>16 deposition?</p> <p>17 A. I just, basically, got ready to talk</p> <p>18 about this case.</p> <p>19 Q. And did you meet with anyone to</p> <p>20 prepare for today's deposition?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p>	<p>1 the pleadings in this case?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. So you haven't seen the complaint or</p> <p>4 the counterclaim?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know, generally, what this</p> <p>7 case is about?</p> <p>8 A. Vaguely.</p> <p>9 Q. And how do you have knowledge of</p> <p>10 that?</p> <p>11 A. I think it was from some news reports</p> <p>12 about a contract dispute.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. And that might have been the</p> <p>14 news reports from earlier this summer?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. And did you show this document</p> <p>17 that we discussed earlier, Exhibit 1, to anyone other</p> <p>18 than your attorney before today?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Did anyone instruct you not to</p> <p>21 provide documents responsive to our request?</p>
Page 14	Page 16

Page 17

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 around the country.</p> <p>2 Q. And do you have a company that</p> <p>3 arranging those for you or do you have an LLC that you</p> <p>4 do speaking engagements through?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Just available to book you through</p> <p>7 your website?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. So if someone wanted to book you to</p> <p>10 do a speech at a college or university, how would they</p> <p>11 get in touch with you?</p> <p>12 A. Probably through phone.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you have a book agent?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And who is your agent?</p> <p>16 A. Joseph Valerie.</p> <p>17 Q. And what company does he work for?</p> <p>18 A. He passed away recently, last year.</p> <p>19 Q. Oh, sorry. Okay. Do you have anyone</p> <p>20 new that you work with?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p>	<p>1 promotion of radio and television.</p> <p>2 Q. And when did your appearances on</p> <p>3 radio and TV begin?</p> <p>4 A. That would probably be around</p> <p>5 September 3rd, after that.</p> <p>6 Q. And are they ongoing, those</p> <p>7 appearances?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. When is the last one that you had?</p> <p>10 A. I think I was on the Adam Carolla</p> <p>11 Podcast last week.</p> <p>12 Q. That must have been interesting. And</p> <p>13 you were Fox News last week as well, correct?</p> <p>14 A. I think I was on Lou Dobbs, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. We have talked a little bit</p> <p>16 about being an author and a journalist. What's your</p> <p>17 main focus of writing?</p> <p>18 A. I write about defense and national</p> <p>19 security affairs.</p> <p>20 Q. And has that always been the case</p> <p>21 since you began journalism?</p>
Page 18	Page 20

<p>1 Q. That's who you worked with on your</p> <p>2 most recent book?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. And tell me about your most recent</p> <p>5 book?</p> <p>6 A. My most recent book is called</p> <p>7 Deceiving The Sky.</p> <p>8 Q. And what's it about?</p> <p>9 A. It's about China. It is</p> <p>10 basically, in the year 2000, I wrote a book called The</p> <p>11 China Threat. And this book was initially, the</p> <p>12 working title was The China Threat 2.0, to look at all</p> <p>13 of the various things that have happened related to</p> <p>14 China since 2000.</p> <p>15 Q. And when did Deceiving The Sky come</p> <p>16 out?</p> <p>17 A. It was published in September, early</p> <p>18 September of this year.</p> <p>19 Q. And did you go on a book tour?</p> <p>20 A. It's not really a tour in the sense</p> <p>21 of a tour. It's more or less a promotional -- a</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And you have written eight books. We</p> <p>3 have talked about two of them.</p> <p>4 Generally, what are the other six about?</p> <p>5 A. They are about -- one was about the</p> <p>6 Clinton Administration's national security policies.</p> <p>7 One was about arms proliferation. Another was about</p> <p>8 the intelligence failures related to 911. The China</p> <p>9 Threat was one. One was called IWaR, which was war</p> <p>10 and peace in the information age.</p> <p>11 Q. And since 2017, which is the</p> <p>12 operative time for this dispute, which entities have</p> <p>13 paid you money? We discussed the Free Beacon, The</p> <p>14 Times.</p> <p>15 What other sources of income have you had?</p> <p>16 A. In what sense?</p> <p>17 Q. Anyone who pays you, that hits your</p> <p>18 bank account. So who have your employers been?</p> <p>19 A. My employer has been The Washington</p> <p>20 Times and The Washington Free Beacon. The most recent</p> <p>21 book was published by Encounter Books.</p>
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Page 19

Page 21

6 (Pages 18 to 21)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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1 **Q. And when do you speaking engagements,**
 2 **do you receive a fee or honoraria for those?**
 3 A. Sometimes.
 4 **Q. And that's just paid to you directly?**
 5 A. Yes.
 6 **Q. And you receive royalties for your**
 7 **books?**
 8 A. Yes.
 9 **Q. And that's through Encounter, the**
 10 **publisher?**
 11 A. It will be, yes. I have not received
 12 royalties.
 13 **Q. And wherever you published this book**
 14 **with Encounter, what is your contract with them?**
 15 A. In what sense?
 16 **Q. What are the royalties and what are**
 17 **the terms of payment?**
 18 A. I don't know all of it, but it's
 19 basically after the first number of copies that are
 20 sold, you get 15 percent, and after that, a certain
 21 number, it's 12 percent, and then I think it's 10

1 A. It's hard to say. I couldn't say. I
 2 don't know.
 3 **Q. Well, what's your best guess?**
 4 A. I'd rather not guess.
 5 **Q. Do you think it would be over**
 6 **\$100,000?**
 7 A. It could be.
 8 **Q. How much did you make on your last**
 9 **book?**
 10 A. I made around that amount.
 11 **Q. Okay. And the six books before that,**
 12 **was it about that amount as well?**
 13 A. I really can't remember.
 14 **Q. Is it safe to say possibly in the six**
 15 **figures, but that that amount could change, based on**
 16 **sales?**
 17 A. I really don't remember. I really
 18 don't have a clear recollection.
 19 **Q. Do you have a contract in writing**
 20 **with Encounter for this most recent book deal?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 22

Page 24

1 percent of the sales of the book.
 2 **Q. Do you get more money if the book**
 3 **does better in sales, such as like bestseller list or**
 4 **anything like that?**
 5 A. No.
 6 **Q. Okay. And when did you sign the**
 7 **contract for the most recent Encounter book deal for**
 8 **Deceiving The Sky?**
 9 A. I think it was the August time frame.
 10 **Q. And did you receive a lump sum**
 11 **at the beginning for publishing that book?**
 12 A. No.
 13 **Q. Do you know about when your first**
 14 **payment would come in from them?**
 15 A. I'm not sure of the terms, but I
 16 think it would be six -- six months or so.
 17 **Q. From publication?**
 18 A. From publication, or maybe a year.
 19 **Q. And based on your prior seven books,**
 20 **about how much do you expect to make from your most**
 21 **recent book, Deceiving The Sky?**

1 **Q. And your former agent negotiated that**
 2 **for you?**
 3 A. No, he didn't.
 4 **Q. You negotiated that on your own?**
 5 A. Yes.
 6 **Q. Who did you negotiate with at**
 7 **Encounter?**
 8 A. Roger Kimble.
 9 **Q. And what's his position?**
 10 A. I believe he is the publisher.
 11 **Q. And was Encounter paid by anyone to**
 12 **publish your book?**
 13 A. Not that I know of.
 14 **Q. Okay. Would they have disclosed that**
 15 **to you, do you believe, if they had received payment**
 16 **from a third party?**
 17 A. Yes.
 18 **Q. And you said you have worked for both**
 19 **The Washington Times and the Free Beacon at the same**
 20 **time, is that correct?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 23

Page 25

7 (Pages 22 to 25)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 Q. And how long have you worked for each 2 publication? 3 A. I have been with The Washington Times 4 since 1985, and I was with The Washington Free Beacon 5 from 2012 to 2019. 6 Q. And did your roles differ for the two 7 publications? 8 A. At The Washington Times, I am a 9 national security columnist, and I write a weekly 10 column. 11 Q. And at The Free Beacon, you were? 12 A. Senior editor, and did writing. 13 Q. Okay. For the entire time, from 2012 14 to 2019? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. And last Friday, The Free Beacon 17 announced that you were no longer affiliated with 18 them, correct? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. And what led up to that decision and 21 announcement?</p>	<p>1 Q. Anyone else? 2 A. Aaron Harrison. 3 Q. Okay. And when you say a dispute 4 about an editorial matter, what do you mean by that? 5 A. We had a disagreement. 6 Q. And what was the disagreement? 7 A. The disagreement was about my book 8 work. 9 Q. And what was the contention that you 10 disagreed with? 11 A. It was having to do with some outside 12 funding for the book project. 13 Q. That you had received? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. And what was that outside funding? 16 A. If I can explain, it was -- I met Guo 17 Wengui in 2017 and interviewed him. And I realized he 18 was a tremendous source of information and had a 19 tremendous story that I wanted to do a book about him. 20 And over the months, I sought to see if he would be 21 willing to do a book. And he initially said that he</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 A. We had a dispute about an editorial 2 matter. 3 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation. 4 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER: 5 Q. You can answer. Say that one more 6 time. 7 A. We had a dispute about editorial. 8 Q. What do you mean by "dispute about 9 editorial?" 10 A. An editorial matter. 11 Q. A matter of news reporting? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And who was your dispute with at The 14 Free Beacon? 15 A. It was with the managers of the Free 16 Beacon. 17 Q. So it wasn't with the editor, 18 Ms. Johnson? 19 A. Yes, it was with Ms. Johnson. 20 Q. Anyone else? 21 A. Yes. Michael Goldfarb.</p>	<p>1 would like to do a book, but then said that he did not 2 want to do a book. 3 I then drafted a proposal for The China 4 Threat 2.0. And my agent at the time circulated it 5 among a number of publishers, and the publishers 6 turned it down. 7 So, at that point, I went to Guo Wengui and 8 I asked if he would be willing to act as a self 9 publisher. I was prepared to self publish the book 10 and I was going to ask him to provide a loan for 11 research, and that the loan would be in the form of an 12 advance payment to be paid back with royalties. 13 And I outlined that. I said that, again, I plan to 14 self publish this, but if I get a publisher, then the 15 royalties that I make from the book would be returned 16 to pay off the loan. I presented him with these 17 options and he told me that he could not provide the 18 support. 19 I then approached an associate of his named 20 William Je. And William Je, I had met through Guo, 21 and he was a supporter of my work. He is a wealthy</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>
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<p>financier, and he said that he would agree to give me the loan on the same terms, it would be an advance payment against royalties.</p> <p>Q. And did you enter into that agreement?</p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>Q. And was this a written agreement you had with Mr. Je?</p> <p>A. It was more of an e mail agreement, yes.</p> <p>Q. And do you have those e mails?</p> <p>A. I have one e mail.</p> <p>Q. And what is that one e mail that you have?</p> <p>A. It explains that he is transferring the funds, and in exchange, I'm going to abide by the terms that I outlined to you.</p> <p>Q. And how much money was the agreement?</p> <p>A. Well, I'd rather not say, but I would say that it was the same amount as the advance on my last book, IWar.</p>	<p>Q. Did he suggest that you seek out Mr. Je?</p> <p>A. I can't remember whether he suggested it or whether I want to Mr. Je on my own.</p> <p>Q. And how did you first meet Mr. Je?</p> <p>A. I met Mr. Je at lunch meeting with Mr. Guo.</p> <p>MS. KROPF: You might want to pause for a second.</p> <p>MS. LUETKEMEYER: Sure. We can take a short break.</p> <p>THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Please stand by. We are going off the record at 12:22 p.m.</p> <p>(Short Recess).</p> <p>THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the record at 12:23 p.m.</p> <p>BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>Q. We were just discussing Mr. Je. And I can't recall what your answer was before so I'll just ask you the question again, but how did you first meet Mr. Je?</p>
Page 30	Page 32

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2010

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<p>1 Q. And when the money came into your 2 account via the wire and you began work, did you by 3 the terms of your agreement, need to provide updates 4 to Mr. Je of your book's progress?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. And when was he expecting to be 7 repaid?</p> <p>8 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: The only -- the only 10 repayment was when I got the royalties, that the 11 royalties would go to him. We arranged that I would 12 that we'd work out the repayment of the royalties when 13 the first royalties came in.</p> <p>14 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>15 Q. So the agreement that you all had did 16 not have any interest amount or terms, other than that 17 you would work it out later?</p> <p>18 A. Correct.</p> <p>19 Q. And did you negotiate that \$100,000 20 or was that just what he decided to give you?</p> <p>21 A. It was based on my last book advance.</p>	<p>1 Q. And when you received that advance 2 from Encounter, how much was that, in two 3 installments?</p> <p>4 A. Six thousand total.</p> <p>5 Q. Was it divided equally?</p> <p>6 A. Half.</p> <p>7 Q. So \$3,000 in August and \$3,000 in 8 April?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And that was also wired to you?</p> <p>11 A. That was a check.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. And was The Free Beacon aware 13 of that payment?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Did they ask about that payment?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. And The Free Beacon's announcement on 18 Friday which we have discussed referred to the 19 arrangements as a previously undisclosed financial 20 transaction with an individual or affiliate covered in 21 your reporting, is that correct?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p> <p>1 Like I said, I structured it as an advance payment 2 against future royalties for book sales.</p> <p>3 Q. So did you receive any other advance 4 for this book then?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, from the publisher.</p> <p>6 Q. From Encounter?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And when did you receive that 9 advance?</p> <p>10 A. That would have been -- half of it 11 would have been in August, and then the other half 12 would have been in probably the April time frame.</p> <p>13 Q. In August, 2018 and April, 2019?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And I understand these dates are 16 approximate. Whenever you received that advance from 17 your publisher, Encounter, was Encounter the same 18 publisher that published your prior books?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. So you found a new publisher?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p> <p>1 A. Correct.</p> <p>2 Q. And why do you believe that they 3 worded it that way?</p> <p>4 A. I don't know.</p> <p>5 Q. Was Mr. Je ever covered in your 6 reporting?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. And was Mr. Je's relationship to 9 Mr. Guo ever covered in your reporting?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. And is it The Free Beacon's 12 disagreement with you that Mr. Je was the true source 13 of the funds?</p> <p>14 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: It's not clear in your 16 question.</p> <p>17 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>18 Q. Did The Free Beacon believe that 19 Mr. Guo was the true source of the funds?</p> <p>20 MS. CLINE: Same objection.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: I don't know.</p>

Page 37

10 (Pages 34 to 37)

**Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019**

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<p>1 Q. When Ms. Johnson first raised this 2 issue with you, when did that occur, the first 3 meeting?</p> <p>4 A. It was probably two or three weeks 5 ago.</p> <p>6 Q. And what was said to you from 7 Ms. Johnson and the other two individuals -- I forget 8 their names?</p> <p>9 A. I don't remember, actually, other 10 than that they were unaware of my book project, the 11 financing for my book project.</p> <p>12 Q. And how did they first learn of the 13 financing for your book project?</p> <p>14 A. Through some discussions.</p> <p>15 Q. What discussions?</p> <p>16 MS. KROPF: They are privileged, so 17 objection.</p> <p>18 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>19 Q. And whenever you say there was a 20 disagreement about an editorial matter, why do you say 21 it was an editorial matter?</p>	<p>1 Q. And whose decision, ultimately, was 2 it to let you go from The Free Beacon?</p> <p>3 A. I don't know.</p> <p>4 Q. Who communicated to you that you were 5 being let go?</p> <p>6 A. Michael Goldfarb and Aaron Harrison.</p> <p>7 Q. And what are their positions?</p> <p>8 A. Chairman and president.</p> <p>9 Q. And do you have any e mails or 10 communications with them or Ms. Johnson about this 11 dispute?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. We talked earlier about your e mail 14 with Mr. Je that memorialized your agreement. 15 Were there any attachments to that agreement, a Word 16 document or a PDF?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. And leading up to that e mail, how 19 had you and Mr. Je communicated about this 20 arrangement?</p> <p>21 A. By phone and by text.</p>
Page 38	Page 40

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11 (Pages 38 to 41)

**Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019**

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1 **Q. And what have those conversations**
 2 **been?**
 3 A. They asked me about my departure from
 4 The Free Beacon.
 5 **Q. And what did you tell them?**
 6 A. I told them that I left because of a
 7 dispute over an editorial matter.
 8 **Q. Did you inform them of the**
 9 **arrangement with Mr. Je?**
 10 A. No.
 11 **Q. Have you spoke went Mr. Je since you**
 12 **left The Free Beacon?**
 13 A. No.
 14 **Q. Have you spoken with him in the last**
 15 **few weeks?**
 16 A. I might have had a text conversation
 17 with him, yes.
 18 **Q. And when did that text conversation**
 19 **occur?**
 20 A. Probably three weeks ago. I can't
 21 really recall.

Page 42

1 And it was my impression that he was a
 2 supporter of Mr. Guo because he supported the idea of
 3 bringing about democratic change in China.
 4 **Q. How many times have you met with**
 5 **Mr. Je in person?**
 6 A. I don't know. Probably two or three.
 7 **Q. Including that lunch where you first**
 8 **met him?**
 9 A. Yes.
 10 **Q. And is he someone you speak to**
 11 **regularly on the phone?**
 12 A. I wouldn't say regularly. I speak to
 13 him occasionally.
 14 **Q. So we spoke earlier about whether he**
 15 **was the subject of your reporting.**
 16 **Would Mr. Je have ever served as a source**
 17 **for you on the record?**
 18 A. I can't recall.
 19 **Q. Might he have provided background**
 20 **information for you for some of your pieces?**
 21 A. No.

Page 44

1 **Q. Was it after the Free Beacon**
 2 **leadership first came to you?**
 3 A. I can't recall.
 4 **Q. Do you remember what you were**
 5 **discussing with Mr. Je?**
 6 A. I don't recall.
 7 **Q. When is the last time you spoke with**
 8 **Mr. Je?**
 9 A. I don't have a clear recollection of
 10 that.
 11 **Q. It might have been the text**
 12 **conversation three weeks ago?**
 13 A. I can't recall.
 14 **Q. And who is William Je? Let's back up**
 15 **a little bit. I will ask you that.**
 16 A. He is a financier from Hong Kong, and
 17 I know -- I think he lives in New York. I think he
 18 has his own company.
 19 And like I said, I got to know him through
 20 meetings, and he discussed various things about the
 21 Chinese communist party that he was opposed to.

Page 43

1 **Q. Did he work with you on the**
 2 **substance, or layout, or formatting of your book?**
 3 A. No.
 4 **Q. Did he ask you for updates regarding**
 5 **the status of your book after he provided you with the**
 6 **financial assistance?**
 7 A. No.
 8 **Q. What do you think his interest was in**
 9 **providing you with the \$100,000?**
 10 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.
 11 THE WITNESS: I believe he wanted to
 12 support my efforts to bring about exposing the kinds
 13 of activities that are being carried out by the
 14 Chinese Government, Chinese party.
 15 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 16 **Q. And did you ever speak with Mr. Guo**
 17 **about Mr. Je's financial assistance?**
 18 A. I don't believe I did. I don't have
 19 any recollection of it.
 20 **Q. Do you know, did Mr. Guo ask Mr. Je**
 21 **to give you that money?**

Page 45

12 (Pages 42 to 45)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. I do not know.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you ever speak with anyone else</p> <p>3 about Mr. Je providing you with the financial</p> <p>4 assistance?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Was your wife aware of it?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. What about Ling Cho Hann?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know.</p> <p>10 Q. I'm sorry. You don't know?</p> <p>11 A. No, I don't know.</p> <p>12 Q. Is it possible that other people were</p> <p>13 aware of the financial assistance?</p> <p>14 A. I don't know.</p> <p>15 Q. And following the announcement from</p> <p>16 The Free Beacon on Friday, have you had any</p> <p>17 conversations regarding this financial assistance with</p> <p>18 The Washington Times?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And what were those conversations?</p> <p>21 A. It was in the context of my returning</p>	<p>1 that have been paid directly or indirectly by Mr. Je?</p> <p>2 MS. CLINE: Objection to form,</p> <p>3 foundation.</p> <p>4 THE WITNESS: No.</p> <p>5 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>6 Q. You are not aware of any other</p> <p>7 reporters or editors who he made investments in?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you have any knowledge of any</p> <p>10 other individuals who have been paid by Mr. Guo?</p> <p>11 MS. CLINE: Objection; form, foundation.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: No. I would like to</p> <p>13 explain though that it's my view that the book project</p> <p>14 had nothing to do with my introduction of French</p> <p>15 Wallop and Mike Waller to Quo Wengui.</p> <p>16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>17 Q. Can you expound on that a little bit?</p> <p>18 A. It had nothing to do with it. There</p> <p>19 was no relationship between it.</p> <p>20 Q. Between the book project and the</p> <p>21 introduction?</p>
Page 46	Page 48

<p>1 to The Washington Times full time.</p> <p>2 Q. And will you be returning to The</p> <p>3 Washington Times full time?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. And when will that begin?</p> <p>6 A. I don't know.</p> <p>7 Q. And would that include you continuing</p> <p>8 to write your column?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And would you also serve as a</p> <p>11 reporter and editor?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Any additional duties you would take</p> <p>14 on at The Washington Times?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Will you receive a pay increase from</p> <p>17 The Washington Times for returning full time?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And has that been negotiated yet?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you have knowledge of any others</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, which is the subject of our</p> <p>2 deposition.</p> <p>3 Q. And we'll get to that in a minute.</p> <p>4 What is the Rule of Law Foundation?</p> <p>5 A. In October of 2018, Guo Wengui</p> <p>6 announced publicly, at a press conference in New York,</p> <p>7 that he was starting a rule of law organization to</p> <p>8 bring about democratic reform in China. And</p> <p>9 subsequently, the Rule of Law Society was created.</p> <p>10 Q. And are you involved with the Rule of</p> <p>11 Law Foundation?</p> <p>12 A. I was asked to be a director, unpaid.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you agree to be a director?</p> <p>14 A. And I agreed.</p> <p>15 Q. And when was that?</p> <p>16 A. I can't remember exactly when. It</p> <p>17 would have been sometime after October of '18.</p> <p>18 Q. And what does your role as a director</p> <p>19 entail?</p> <p>20 A. Well, so far, we have had two</p> <p>21 telephonic meetings where we have discussed what kind</p>
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Page 47

Page 49

13 (Pages 46 to 49)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 of programs and projects that might be carried out in 2 support of this larger goal of bringing about 3 democracy and rule of law inside of China. Q. And who are the other directors? A. I don't -- I'm not sure I can recount them all. Steve Bannon is the chairman, and there are two or three other people whose names I can't remember. Q. And is Mr. Guo a director? A. No. Q. What is his role? A. I don't know. He is not a formal participant of the Rule of Law Society, as far as I know. Q. Was he involved in the two phone conferences you referenced? A. No, not that I am aware of. Q. Have you ever been paid by the Rule of Law Foundation? A. No. Q. Do you know of anyone else who, as a </p>	<p>1 which we have talked about was the form of a press 2 conference, had you had conversations with him about 3 forming this group? A. No. Q. And when did you first hear about the organization being formed? A. About which organization? Q. The Rule of Law Foundation. A. It was after the October thing where he announced that he was moving ahead or having people move ahead with creating the organization. I don't remember the specific time frame. Q. And do you believe the organization has long term goals? A. I'm not clear about what you mean by that. Q. Do you think it will continue to exist in the future or do you believe it's a short term vehicle for achieving change? A. I don't know. Q. And are there any tenants of the </p>
Page 50	Page 52

<p>1 director, has ever been paid? A. I don't know. Q. And what's your understanding of the mission of the organization? A. As I said, it was outlined in the press conference by Guo Wengui in October where he felt that he wanted to pull resources toward focusing on bringing about rule of law and democracy in China. Q. And in the last year, what has the organization accomplished? A. It's in the formative stages, and I think that they have created a -- what they call a whistleblower system whereby people in China can provide tips and information about things that are going on inside the Chinese system that could be used to bring about the rule of law in China. Q. And was the idea for this organization Mr. Quo's idea? A. That's what he announced in October of 2018. Q. And leading up to this announcement</p>	<p>1 organization that you disagree with? A. I'm not sure I know all of their tenants, so I can't answer that. Q. Are there board members as well as directors? MS. CLINE: Objection to form. THE WITNESS: I don't know. BY MS. LUETKEMEYER: Q. And is Kyle Bass on the Rule of Law Foundation? A. I believe that there's two entities; one is the Rule of Law Society, and one is the Rule of Law Foundation, and he may be on the Rule of Law Foundation. Q. And what's the Rule of Law Society? A. I'm not sure. I think one is a 501(c)(3) and one is a 501(c)(4). I think the society may be 501(c)(4). Q. And who is Kyle Bass? A. He is a financier. Q. And where does he live?</p>
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Page 51

Page 53

14 (Pages 50 to 53)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. I think he lives in Texas.</p> <p>2 Q. And how did he get involved with the</p> <p>3 Rule of Law Foundation?</p> <p>4 A. I don't know.</p> <p>5 Q. Have you ever met him in person?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you know, was he participating in</p> <p>8 the phone calls that you all had, the phone calls?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. But you think he might be involved</p> <p>11 with the Rule of Law Foundation?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. And why do you think that?</p> <p>14 A. I think it was announced that he was</p> <p>15 part of that organization.</p> <p>16 Q. Have you ever spoken with him on the</p> <p>17 phone?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Have you ever e mailed with him?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Have you ever texted with him?</p>	<p>1 any employees?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know.</p> <p>3 Q. Before you had the two phone</p> <p>4 conferences, did you receive an agenda or written</p> <p>5 board materials, as the director?</p> <p>6 A. I don't recall. An agenda, what do</p> <p>7 you mean by that?</p> <p>8 Q. Any written communication about what</p> <p>9 was to be discussed in those two meetings?</p> <p>10 A. I can't recall that.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you know if the Rule of Law</p> <p>12 Foundation has spent money given to think tanks?</p> <p>13 A. I don't know.</p> <p>14 Q. Has the Rule of Law Foundation put on</p> <p>15 any public events?</p> <p>16 A. I don't know the answer to that.</p> <p>17 Q. Who is Sasha Gong?</p> <p>18 A. Sasha Gong is a former Voice Of</p> <p>19 America employee.</p> <p>20 Q. And how do you know her?</p> <p>21 A. I knew her from her reporting, and</p>
Page 54	Page 55

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<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Are you aware that he did so?</p> <p>3 A. I don't know.</p> <p>4 Q. Did he call you after he had spoke with them on Sunday?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Did he speak with you after he spoke with them on Sunday?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. So after Mr. Hann called you and asked if you needed any help, did you send him any communication in writing?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. You just told him verbally that you did not need any help?</p> <p>11 A. That's right.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you know why he would call you?</p> <p>13 A. He's a friend, and I think he was</p> <p>14 concerned about my situation.</p> <p>15 Q. And you remain friends?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p>	<p>1 Q. Were you aware that he had been deposed in this lawsuit?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. But you have not reviewed his deposition?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. What's Mr. Ling Cho's relationship with Mr. Guo?</p> <p>6 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: I don't know. I know that</p> <p>8 he served as a translator in some of the meetings that</p> <p>9 I had with Mr. Guo.</p> <p>10 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>11 Q. And those would have been in 2017?</p> <p>12 A. Probably 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>13 Q. Let's go back to the very beginning of when you first met Guo Wengui. When was that, to the best of your recollection?</p> <p>14 A. It would have been either June or</p> <p>15 July of 2017.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. Do you remember writing an</p>
Page 58	Page 60

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<p>1 Q. Had you interviewed Mr. Guo before 2 this article?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Had you met Mr. Guo before this 5 article?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. And how soon after this article was 8 written did you meet with Mr. Guo?</p> <p>9 A. Like I said, it was in the June or 10 July time frame.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you believe this is the first 12 article you wrote about Mr. Guo?</p> <p>13 A. I don't know.</p> <p>14 Q. It's the earliest I found, so take 15 that for what you will.</p> <p>16 In this article, Sasha Gong is quoted as a 17 source. Do you see that in the fourth paragraph?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. What is this article about, 20 Mr. Gertz?</p> <p>21 A. It's about an interview that was</p>	<p>1 Q. And these are videos that Mr. Guo 2 would put on the Internet?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Just available for public viewing?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Did Sasha Gong introduce you 7 to Mr. Guo?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And when did that occur?</p> <p>10 A. It would have been in the June to 11 July time frame, before I did the interview. I 12 contacted Sasha and said I would like to interview 13 Mr. Guo.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you know how Sasha met Mr. Guo?</p> <p>15 A. I do not.</p> <p>16 Q. And did she agree to make the 17 introduction?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And when did you first meet him?</p> <p>20 A. It was in the June or July time 21 frame.</p>
Page 62	Page 64

Page 63

Page 65

17 (Pages 62 to 65)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>2 Q. And is that the first time you had</p> <p>3 met her?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. And you said you met at a restaurant?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And how did that meeting go?</p> <p>8 A. It was an interview.</p> <p>9 Q. So it was an interview. Was it on</p> <p>10 the record?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And do you remember about how long it</p> <p>13 lasted?</p> <p>14 A. Probably an hour.</p> <p>15 Q. And what was your first impression of</p> <p>16 Mr. Guo?</p> <p>17 A. I was amazed. I felt that this is a</p> <p>18 person who is an amazing resource of inside</p> <p>19 information within the Chinese system.</p> <p>20 I feel like he was, in a sense -- in my</p> <p>21 experience, I have covered intelligence defectors.</p>	<p>1 in that first meeting?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. And did you make up a proposal to</p> <p>4 Mr. Guo after the first meeting?</p> <p>5 A. Not after the first meeting. I think</p> <p>6 it might have been several months later.</p> <p>7 Q. How frequently would you speak with</p> <p>8 Mr. Guo after that first meeting?</p> <p>9 A. After the first meeting, it was not</p> <p>10 frequently, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. And did he eventually become a source</p> <p>12 for you, subject of many of your articles and columns?</p> <p>13 MS. CLINE: Objection.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Occasionally. I</p> <p>15 interviewed him occasionally, and he was a source.</p> <p>16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>17 Q. Did your opinions of Mr. Guo change</p> <p>18 over time?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you still believe today that same</p> <p>21 thing you believed whenever you left that first</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p> <p>1 And I believe that he was like a defector in</p> <p>2 the sense that he had access to inside information</p> <p>3 related to the Chinese Government, the Chinese</p> <p>4 Communist Party, and the Chinese Intelligence</p> <p>5 Services.</p> <p>6 Q. And did you believe that he would be</p> <p>7 a valuable source for you?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. How long did that meeting last, or</p> <p>10 interview?</p> <p>11 A. About an hour.</p> <p>12 Q. And did you agree to meet again?</p> <p>13 A. I don't know. I don't recall.</p> <p>14 Q. After that first meeting, did you</p> <p>15 begin to speak with Mr. Guo over the phone?</p> <p>16 A. After the first meeting, again,</p> <p>17 because I realized he was a valuable resource, I</p> <p>18 actually wanted to seek to do a book about him.</p> <p>19 Q. Already, after that first meeting?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Did he provide you with any documents</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p> <p>1 meeting?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And if you were to describe Mr. Guo</p> <p>4 to someone who had never heard of him, how would you</p> <p>5 describe him?</p> <p>6 A. A dissident, Chinese millionaire, who</p> <p>7 is working to bring about democracy and rule of law in</p> <p>8 China.</p> <p>9 Q. And what do you think his motivations</p> <p>10 are?</p> <p>11 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: I don't know his</p> <p>13 motivation, other than he has become a defector,</p> <p>14 former insider, who is now seeking to bring about</p> <p>15 democratic change.</p> <p>16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>17 Q. And when you say bring about</p> <p>18 democratic change, can you expand on that a little</p> <p>19 bit, about his goals?</p> <p>20 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: He believes that the</p>

Page 67

Page 69

18 (Pages 66 to 69)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 Communist Party of China is the source of the problem 2 of what I regard as the China threat today. 3 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>Q. When you say "the China threat," can you explain that to me?</p> <p>A. That's the title of my 2000 book. In China, they have something called the China threat theory, which is the Chinese Government and Intelligence Services use to monitor opposition to China's development.</p> <p>So it's a play on the Chinese threat theory. And it is, basically, the national security threats from China which range from military, to political, to intelligence, to economic, to financial.</p> <p>Q. And do you believe Mr. Guo has value in defeating the China threat?</p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>Q. In what way?</p> <p>A. Because he is a former insider and has access, he can provide valuable information that could be used to help expose what I call the China</p>	<p>1 interpreters. 2 Q. So for many of your meetings with Mr. Guo, was Ms. Wong present? 3 A. I would say occasionally. 4 Q. Did you ever meet with him one on one, Mr. Guo? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. And where would that occur? 7 A. In his apartment. 8 Q. And how frequently would you travel to New York to meet with him? 9 A. I'd say once every two months. 10 Q. And would you describe your relationship with Mr. Guo as a professional one? 11 A. I'd say it was a combination of both 12 a professional, as a source, as well as some 13 friendship. In the news business, sources can be 14 friends. It's not unusual. 15 Q. Would you socialize with him? 16 A. Would I socialize with him; what do 17 you mean by that?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p> <p>1 threat. 2 Q. And when you first met Mr. Guo and he told you his story, did you do any independent reporting or verification on what he told you? 3 A. I did. As much as I possibly could, I read some of the stories about him in the Chinese press or the press around the world, but there wasn't a lot of information available on him. 4 Q. Mr. Gertz, do you speak Mandarin? 5 A. No. 6 Q. And so when you would meet with Mr. Guo, was there always an interpreter present? 7 A. Not always, but many times. 8 Q. Does Mr. Guo speak English? 9 A. I'd say haltingly. 10 Q. Was it usually the same interpreter? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Who would interpret for him, if you can remember any of their names? You mentioned one earlier. 13 A. Evette Wong, Ling Cho Hann were</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p> <p>1 Q. Have you ever spent time with Mr. Guo in a purely social capacity where he is not serving as a source for you? 2 A. No. 3 Q. Have you ever been on his yacht? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. How many times? 6 A. Once. 7 Q. And you said you have been in his home in New York City? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Have you ever been in his home, not to work on your book or the reporting, just to spend some time together? 10 A. Well, like I said, I view him as a 11 valuable source of information. So there is never a 12 time that I am not with him when I am not looking for 13 some inside information that could be produced as a 14 news story. 15 Q. Did you help Mr. Guo in his application for asylum?</p>

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. **But you are aware of that?**
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. **You never advised him on that**
application?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. **You never consulted with him or his**
lawyers?
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. **Has he ever asked you for help**
applying for asylum?
 9 A. No.
 10 Q. **Wherever you would write articles or**
columns about Mr. Guo, would you ever show him a draft
before they were published?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. **Would you ever show him quotes before**
they were published, to make sure they were approved
or translated correctly?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. **And to your knowledge, did Mr. Guo**

Page 74

1 deal with. And so I am aware of that, and I still
 2 regard him as a valuable resource.
 3 Q. **Do you believe that Mr. Guo has that**
kind of baggage?
 4 A. I think all defectors have that
 5 baggage, and I would say yes.
 6 Q. **When you say baggage, what do you**
mean by that?
 7 A. Whatever personality difficulties or
 8 adjustments to dealing with a new society. He came
 9 from a different system than is in the United States.
 10 Q. **Did you think that Mr. Guo's main**
goal was to bring down the Chinese Communist Party?
 11 A. Did I believe?
 12 Q. **Did you and do you?**
 13 A. I do.
 14 Q. **And do you believe he is an opponent**
of Chairman Xi?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. **And have you personally ever heard**
Mr. Guo give an oath of loyalty to the Chinese

Page 74

1 **read what you wrote about him?**
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. **Did he ever express an opinion about**
your writing about him?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. **And what he did he say?**
 6 A. If he liked a story, he would send me
 7 a text that he liked the story.
 8 Q. **And if he didn't like the story?**
 9 A. I didn't hear anything.
 10 Q. **Were you certain that Mr. Guo was a**
dissident?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. **And why is that?**
 13 A. I have had much experience dealing
 14 with defectors, from covering the intelligence beat.
 15 And I can tell you that people who defect, as I
 16 consider it, as he does, frequently come with baggage.
 17 They have usually had many types of
 18 different problems and things. So often, dealing with
 19 people from this situation are sometimes difficult to

Page 75

1 **Community Party?**
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. **Have you ever heard a video of him**
doing that?
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. **Have you ever heard an audio of him**
doing that?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. **So it's fair to say you are unaware**
of any expressions of loyalty to Chairman Je?
 8 A. I would say that at the early stages
 9 of what he describes as whistle blowing or basically
 10 exposing things, that I believe that perhaps he was
 11 trying to hedge his bets.
 12 I can remember him kind of pulling his
 13 punches in criticizing Xi Jinping, while at the same
 14 time, criticizing what he regarded as large scale
 15 corruption, but I never saw it as a kind of a loyalty
 16 or fidelity to Xi Jinping.
 17 Q. **And what did he tell you about his**
past?

Page 77

20 (Pages 74 to 77)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. That he has been working to 2 privately within the system to eventually break with 3 the regime, and try to bring about democratic change. 4 Q. Did he tell you about Tiananmen 5 Square? 6 A. He mentioned that around the time of 7 Tiananmen, he had some type of an incident related to 8 a police run in. 9 Q. Did you verify whether or not he was 10 ever arrested in Tiananmen? 11 A. I did not. 12 Q. And why did Mr. Guo leave China? 13 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation. 14 THE WITNESS: I don't know the answer to 15 that. 16 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER: 17 Q. Did he ever tell you why he left? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Do you know when he left? 20 A. Not exactly. 21 Q. Did you ever try to establish when he</p>	<p>1 A. I never had any sense that he had a 2 relationship with him. 3 Q. And in the course of covering or 4 getting to know Mr. Guo, did you learn that he had 5 brought many lawsuits in the United States? 6 A. I did. 7 Q. And what was the purpose of those 8 lawsuits? 9 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation. 10 THE WITNESS: I don't know. 11 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER: 12 Q. Have you seen the pleadings in any of 13 those cases? 14 A. I did. 15 Q. Which ones, do you recall? 16 A. I don't recall. 17 Q. Do you recall writing an article or a 18 column about his defamation lawsuit? 19 A. I do. 20 Q. And do you recall the outcome of that 21 case?</p>
Page 78	Page 80

<p>1 actually left China? 2 A. The only thing I could determine was 3 that 2015 or 2016, based on news reports. 4 Q. That he arrived in America sometime 5 then? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Do you know if he spent any time in 8 another country in between? 9 A. I don't know. 10 Q. Do you believe that Mr. Guo has 11 broken with the regime definitively? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. What do you know about his 14 relationship with Wang Qishan? 15 A. I know that he believes that he has 16 obtained information about corruption related to Wang 17 Qishan, and that that was one of his main whistle 18 blowing activities when he began to go public in the 19 2017, 2018 time period. 20 Q. And what did he represent to you was 21 their relationship?</p>	<p>1 A. I think he won the case. 2 Q. What have you heard from Mr. Guo 3 about his lawsuits against or on behalf of himself 4 regarding defamation claims? 5 A. It's not something we have discussed. 6 Q. So you covered the lawsuits, but he 7 did not discuss them with you? 8 A. I didn't discuss them with him. 9 Q. Okay. So whenever he was successful 10 in prevailing in that defamation case, did you talk to 11 him about that court victory? 12 A. I do not believe I did. 13 Q. You wrote an article about it though? 14 A. Yes. I might have quoted him. He 15 may have sent a quote for the story. 16 Q. Did you know who the defendants were 17 in those lawsuits? 18 A. I do not. 19 Q. Were you aware that they were mostly 20 dissidents? 21 A. Yes.</p>
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Page 79

Page 81

21 (Pages 78 to 81)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 Q. Why do you believe that Mr. Guo, if 2 he was a dissident, was suing other dissidents?</p> <p>3 A. I don't know.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you ever ask him about it?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Were you ever given any indication by 7 Mr. Guo or anyone else that these cases might have 8 been more for show than an actual dispute?</p> <p>9 A. I don't understand that question.</p> <p>10 Q. Did Mr. Guo ever tell you that there 11 was additional purpose to the lawsuit besides 12 prevailing on defamation law?</p> <p>13 A. I am not aware of anything like that.</p> <p>14 Q. You are not aware of any PR purpose 15 to the lawsuits?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. What have you heard from Mr. Guo, if 18 anything, about his lawsuits involving Soho, China?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know anything about it.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you know anything about his 21 lawsuits involving Sho Shen?</p>	<p>1 Here is a copy and I will give you my copy. 2 I will ask you to take a look at the October 25, 2017 3 entitled, "Sessions threatens to quit over Chinese 4 dissident."</p> <p>5 Do you see that?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And I will represent that the first 8 four pages are the article that I want to talk about 9 to you. The last half of this exhibit has to do with 10 an unrelated issue.</p> <p>11 On Page 3 of 9, as you can see, they are 12 labeled in the upper, right corner of this Exhibit No. 13 3, Mr. Gertz, do you see that last paragraph beginning 14 with, "The State Department?"</p> <p>15 A. Um hum.</p> <p>16 Q. That paragraph reads that The State 17 Department blocked the FBI from arresting two Chinese 18 security officials for violating visa rules in meeting 19 with Mr. Guo this year." The Wall Street Journal had 20 reported that. Do you see that?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p> <p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Or its founder, Hui shu Lee?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Were you ever given any indication by 5 Evette Wong or William Je about these lawsuits and 6 their purpose?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Did Mr. Guo talk to you about his 9 lawsuits against Chinese state connected companies?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Were you aware of Mr. Quo's movement 12 of money to Hong Kong for investments in Hi Chong 13 Securities?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 -----</p> <p>16 (Exhibit No. 3 marked for identification.)</p> <p>17 -----</p> <p>18 Q. There was an article that you wrote 19 that I want to hand to you so that you remember that, 20 and I will give a copy to you. This is an October 25, 21 2017 article. We are going to mark it as Exhibit 3.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p> <p>1 Q. And you report that meeting was part 2 of China's efforts to force Mr. Guo to return to 3 China, and included threats and intimidation?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. When did you first learn about the 6 meeting, the visit by Chinese authorities to Mr. Guo?</p> <p>7 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>8 Q. What happened in that incident?</p> <p>9 A. As I recall, what I can say is that</p> <p>10 China -- and this was in the Wall Street Journal, and</p> <p>11 I am basing it on that. The Wall Street Journal</p> <p>12 reported that Chinese officials showed up to the</p> <p>13 United States for a meeting on cyber security in</p> <p>14 Washington. And at some point, one or both of the</p> <p>15 officials who were part of the ministry of public</p> <p>16 security or ministry of state security broke off and</p> <p>17 went to New York to try to coerce and intimidate Guo</p> <p>18 into either remaining silent or returning to China.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you know when this occurred?</p> <p>20 A. I do not.</p> <p>21 Q. This article says this year.</p>

Page 83

Page 85

22 (Pages 82 to 85)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. It was in the Wall Street Journal 2 article.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. So, Mr. Gertz, did Guo 4 discuss this with you, this visit by the Chinese 5 officials?</p> <p>6 A. I believe he did.</p> <p>7 Q. And what did he say?</p> <p>8 A. He explained that they were there to 9 threaten him and his family if he didn't go back to 10 China or if he didn't remain silent. I can't remember 11 the details.</p> <p>12 Q. And he let them into his home, 13 correct?</p> <p>14 A. I believe so.</p> <p>15 Q. They came into the Sherry Netherland 16 apartment?</p> <p>17 A. I am not sure.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you know how long the visit 19 lasted?</p> <p>20 A. I don't know.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you know if he tried to bargain</p>	<p>1 A. I have never heard that.</p> <p>2 Q. Have you ever heard a recording of 3 him saying that?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. And how would you describe your 6 relationship with Mr. Guo today?</p> <p>7 A. Professional and friendly.</p> <p>8 Q. And when is the last time you spoke 9 with him?</p> <p>10 A. Probably last month.</p> <p>11 Q. And do you communicate with him over 12 text?</p> <p>13 A. Occasionally.</p> <p>14 Q. And sometimes over the phone?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. What's your preferred method of 17 communication?</p> <p>18 A. Signal.</p> <p>19 Q. Signal. And when is the last time 20 you saw Mr. Guo in person?</p> <p>21 A. It would have been last month.</p>
Page 86	Page 88

<p>1 with them?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know what the objective of the 4 visit was?</p> <p>5 A. I do not know.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know if those men were meeting 7 with him regarding the release of held funds?</p> <p>8 A. I do not know.</p> <p>9 Q. Was Mr. Guo concerned about the 10 safety of his family after this visit?</p> <p>11 A. I don't know.</p> <p>12 Q. Are you aware of whether Mr. Guo has 13 tried to negotiate with security officials for the 14 Chinese Government?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know.</p> <p>16 Q. Are you aware of any other meetings 17 by Chinese security officials at the Sherry 18 Netherland?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know.</p> <p>20 Q. Are you aware of Mr. Guo's statements 21 that he has "absolute faith in General Secretary XI?"</p>	<p>1 Q. And what was that for?</p> <p>2 A. I met him at his apartment when I was 3 in New York for a book event, book meeting event.</p> <p>4 Q. And how long did that meeting last?</p> <p>5 A. About an hour.</p> <p>6 Q. Was that meeting professional or 7 personal in nature?</p> <p>8 A. Both.</p> <p>9 Q. And what did you and Mr. Guo discuss?</p> <p>10 A. Events in Hong Kong mainly.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you discuss this litigation?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Have you ever discussed this 14 litigation with Mr. Guo?</p> <p>15 A. I have.</p> <p>16 Q. And what were the conversations that 17 you had with him about it?</p> <p>18 A. At least one occasion, I asked him 19 not to go through with the lawsuit.</p> <p>20 Q. And when was that?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember exactly when, but it</p>
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<p>1 would have been sometime after the lawsuit had become 2 public.</p> <p>3 Q. After it was filed?</p> <p>4 A. I don't know when exactly.</p> <p>5 Q. But it wasn't before the lawsuit was 6 filed, it was after the lawsuit was filed?</p> <p>7 A. It was after the word of the lawsuit 8 had become public.</p> <p>9 Q. And when you say you asked him not to 10 go through with it, why did you ask him that?</p> <p>11 A. Well, I was at one time friends with 12 Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller, and I felt that it was best 13 that they would find a way to settle whatever 14 differences they had.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you tell him that?</p> <p>16 A. I just asked him not to sue them.</p> <p>17 Q. He had already sued them though, 18 hadn't he?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know. Like I said, it was 20 after the suit became public. I didn't know about the 21 details of it.</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Do you recall ever apologizing to Mr. Guo 4 for introducing him to Mr. Waller and Ms. Wallop?</p> <p>5 A. He was very upset about the 6 arrangement between them going bad and expressed that 7 to me. And I felt bad. I did apologize and say, yes, 8 I am sorry that things did not work out.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember if you characterized 10 Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller in that conversation in any 11 particular way?</p> <p>12 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you know when that conversation 14 occurred?</p> <p>15 A. I do not.</p> <p>16 Q. When you say Mr. Guo was very upset, 17 what did he say to you?</p> <p>18 A. I can't recall exactly what he said. 19 I got the impression that he was upset and that he had 20 felt ripped off.</p> <p>21 Q. Did he use those words?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p> <p>1 Q. So you effectively were asking him to 2 drop the suit?</p> <p>3 A. I asked him not to sue them.</p> <p>4 Q. And what did he say?</p> <p>5 A. I can't remember, but he didn't say 6 yes or no. I don't remember what his response was.</p> <p>7 Q. Was this in person?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And who was the translator?</p> <p>10 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you know if it was Ling Cho Hann?</p> <p>12 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>13 Q. I won't ask you to speculate. Since 14 that conversation about this litigation, have you had 15 other conversations with Mr. Guo about this case?</p> <p>16 A. No. There may have been two 17 occasions where I asked him not to sue.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. What was the other one, do you 19 recall?</p> <p>20 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>21 Q. But at least on one occasion?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p> <p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you recall the words that he used?</p> <p>3 A. I do not.</p> <p>4 Q. And was this meeting in person as 5 well?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Did he seem angry to you?</p> <p>8 A. Not visibly, no. I just felt that he 9 was upset by it.</p> <p>10 Q. And do you recall who, if anyone, was 11 there for that conversation besides the two of you?</p> <p>12 A. I do not.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you recall if that was at his 14 apartment?</p> <p>15 A. I can't recall where it was.</p> <p>16 Q. And after you said that you were 17 sorry that it happened, what did he say?</p> <p>18 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you ever hear back from him that 20 he was not going to drop the lawsuit?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p>

Page 91

Page 93

24 (Pages 90 to 93)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 Q. And has this lawsuit changed your 2 relationship with Mr. Guo? 3 A. I don't know. 4 Q. Do you notice the difference in how 5 the two of you interact? 6 A. No. 7 Q. He continues to contact you? 8 A. He sends me information about the 9 Hong Kong protests occasionally. 10 Q. Okay. And when is the last time 11 Mr. Guo was an on the record source in one of your 12 articles or columns? 13 A. It would have been in July of 2019. 14 Q. And your book has some excerpts of 15 Mr. Guo, isn't that correct? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. And has he read your book? 18 A. I don't know. 19 Q. Did you send him the chapters of it 20 before it was finished? 21 A. No.</p>	<p>1 about two minutes. I am almost done with the 2 questioning. 3 Q. Do you know or do you know of Donald 4 Chan? 5 A. Donald. 6 Q. Chan, C-H-A-N? 7 A. Chan. I don't know. 8 Q. So we have spoken of William Je, and 9 Evette Wong, he introduced you to her, didn't he? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. We spoke briefly about what her role 12 was. Do you recall when you first met with Ms. Wong? 13 A. When I did the first interview in 14 June or July of 2017. 15 Q. At the restaurant? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. And did you ever speak with her 18 independently outside of Mr. Guo? 19 A. I may have, occasionally. 20 Q. Did you communicate with her over 21 Signal?</p>
Page 94	Page 95

25 (Pages 94 to 97)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 Do you recall that?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Remind me again what the difference is between the two?</p> <p>4 A. The Rule of Law Society is a 5 501(c)(4) organization and the Rule of Law Foundation 6 is a 501(c)(3).</p> <p>7 Q. And which one are you a director on?</p> <p>8 A. The 501(c)(4) society.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. And do you remember the other directors of the 501(c)(4) society?</p> <p>10 A. I do not.</p> <p>11 Q. And do you all keep minutes of your meetings?</p> <p>12 A. I don't know.</p> <p>13 Q. Have you ever seen any minutes of meetings?</p> <p>14 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you recall who else was on the two conference call meetings you referenced earlier?</p> <p>16 A. I do not recall.</p>	<p>1 A. I think my wife told me.</p> <p>2 Q. It was your shared bank account with your wife?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. And what bank is that?</p> <p>5 A. Bank of America.</p> <p>6 Q. And where does William Je live?</p> <p>7 A. I think he lives either in New York, 8 or Hong Kong, or both.</p> <p>9 Q. And if we request the banking record that would show that transfer, would you be willing to provide that to us?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. On what basis?</p> <p>12 A. Privacy.</p> <p>13 MS. KROPF: It's also not in your 14 deposition -- or in your subpoena.</p> <p>15 MS. LUETKEMEYER: Right. We would have 16 to amend our subpoena for that and talk about it.</p> <p>17 Q. Mr. Gertz, you said that you described Mr. Guo as a defector a couple times in this</p>
Page 98	Page 100

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<p>1 both a dissident and a defector?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. We spoke briefly about the visit by the Chinese officials to Mr. Quo's apartment.</p> <p>4 Do you recall that discussion?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Have you listened to the audio or reviewed any video from that meeting?</p> <p>7 A. I don't believe so.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you aware that those recordings exist on the Internet?</p> <p>9 A. I am not certain. I am not aware of them.</p> <p>10 Q. Before the break, we were discussing a woman named Evette Wong.</p> <p>11 Do you remember that?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. How many times would you say you have met with Ms. Wong?</p> <p>14 A. Maybe ten. Not meet with her, but she would be present at a meeting that I was at.</p>	<p>1 wanted to meet with him?</p> <p>2 A. Sometimes.</p> <p>3 Q. Would she ever reach out to you if she wanted to meet with you?</p> <p>4 A. I don't recall her doing that.</p> <p>5 Q. How would you normally set up a meeting or an interview with Mr. Guo?</p> <p>6 A. I would send him a text on Signal.</p> <p>7 Q. Just directly to him?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Would he occasionally have other people get back in touch with you?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Who would those people be?</p> <p>12 A. Mainly Evette Wong, or in the past, Ling Cho Hann.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you know what her duties for Mr. Guo involved?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you know anything about her background?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p> <p>1 Q. And when you would communicate with her over Signal like we discussed earlier, would other people be on the message or just you and Ms. Wong?</p> <p>2 A. Just me and Ms. Wong.</p> <p>3 Q. And what would you all communicate about?</p> <p>4 A. Usually just about arranging for a meeting with Mr. Guo.</p> <p>5 Q. What was her role with respect to Mr. Guo?</p> <p>6 MS. CLINE: Objection; foundation, form.</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: I don't really know. I know her as an assistant to Mr. Guo.</p> <p>8 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>9 Q. Would she help him with scheduling?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know.</p> <p>11 Q. When you said you were in touch with her regarding arranging a meeting with Mr. Guo, correct?</p> <p>12 A. Correct.</p> <p>13 Q. So would you reach out to her if you</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p> <p>1 A. I do not.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you know, is she Chinese?</p> <p>3 A. I believe she is Chinese, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. What is Golden Spring?</p> <p>5 A. I don't know.</p> <p>6 Q. You have never heard of an entity, Golden Spring?</p> <p>7 A. I have not.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you familiar with ACA Capital?</p> <p>9 A. I do not know what that is.</p> <p>10 Q. Are you familiar with Eastern Profit?</p> <p>11 A. I think that's the part of this suit here.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes. It's the plaintiff in this lawsuit.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. What do you know about Eastern Profit?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know anything about it.</p> <p>16 Q. Did Mr. Guo ever discuss Eastern Profit with you?</p>

Page 103

Page 105

27 (Pages 102 to 105)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Did he ever discuss any of his</p> <p>3 corporations or affiliated entities with you?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. In the early fall of 2017, do you</p> <p>6 recall an event at the Hudson Institute?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And what was that?</p> <p>9 A. It was to be a speech by Mr. Guo.</p> <p>10 Q. And what was the goal of that event?</p> <p>11 A. He was going to give a speech at one</p> <p>12 of his first public events.</p> <p>13 Q. And what is the Hudson Institute?</p> <p>14 A. It's a think tank in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>15 Q. And whose idea was the event?</p> <p>16 A. I don't know.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you help organize it?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. How did you first hear about it?</p> <p>20 A. Probably through Ling Cho.</p> <p>21 Q. Were you set to participate in the</p>	<p>1 Q. Did the Hudson Institute ever decide</p> <p>2 it wasn't comfortable with Guo?</p> <p>3 A. I don't know.</p> <p>4 Q. Were you ever a part of those</p> <p>5 conversations?</p> <p>6 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: No.</p> <p>8 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>9 Q. How did you learn that the event was</p> <p>10 cancelled?</p> <p>11 A. I think Ling Cho told me.</p> <p>12 Q. How soon before the event did it get</p> <p>13 cancelled?</p> <p>14 A. A number of hours.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember anything about any</p> <p>16 alleged cyber attack?</p> <p>17 A. Yes. I believe that they were under</p> <p>18 a cyber attack that they believe came from China as</p> <p>19 part of the pressure campaign to halt the event.</p> <p>20 Q. The officials of the Hudson Institute</p> <p>21 claimed a cyber attack had occurred?</p>
Page 106	Page 108
<p>1 event?</p> <p>2 A. I believe I was to be a moderator on</p> <p>3 a panel of some sort.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you recall who asked you to be a</p> <p>5 moderator?</p> <p>6 A. I think it was Ling Cho.</p> <p>7 Q. And what happened with that event?</p> <p>8 A. It was cancelled.</p> <p>9 Q. Why?</p> <p>10 A. The ostensible reason was that they</p> <p>11 weren't prepared for it, but it appears from all</p> <p>12 outside appearances, that it was under pressure from</p> <p>13 the Chinese Government.</p> <p>14 Q. When you say "outside appearances"</p> <p>15 what leads you to believe that?</p> <p>16 A. Well, there is a report from the U.S.</p> <p>17 China Commission, a Congressional report, which</p> <p>18 addressed that issue. And the report states that the</p> <p>19 Chinese Government pressured the Hudson Institution as</p> <p>20 to cancel it by threatening to withhold visas from</p> <p>21 some of the Hudson scholars.</p>	<p>1 A. They claimed that they had been</p> <p>2 attacked by cyber from China.</p> <p>3 Q. Were you invited to that event by Ken</p> <p>4 Weinstein?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Mr. Hann invited you to that event,</p> <p>7 you said, correct?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. And do you remember if you have any</p> <p>10 documents or e mails about that event or the purpose</p> <p>11 of it?</p> <p>12 A. I do not.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you ever hear from anyone or have</p> <p>14 any reason to believe that Hudson might have been</p> <p>15 having second thoughts about hosting the event?</p> <p>16 A. I did not. I have no idea.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you believe the reason for the</p> <p>18 cancellation as stated by the Hudson Institute?</p> <p>19 A. Could you clarify that?</p> <p>20 Q. Do you believe the stated reason for</p> <p>21 the cancellation, the pressure campaign and the cyber</p>
Page 107	Page 109

28 (Pages 106 to 109)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 attack, was the real reason?</p> <p>2 A. The question is not clear.</p> <p>3 Q. I will rephrase it. The stated</p> <p>4 reason for the cancellation, that there had been a</p> <p>5 cyber attack, do you believe that to be the true</p> <p>6 reason it was cancelled?</p> <p>7 A. I don't believe that was their stated</p> <p>8 reason for cancelling the event.</p> <p>9 Q. What was the stated reason?</p> <p>10 A. I believe they issued -- one of their</p> <p>11 spokesmen told me that there was some other -- there</p> <p>12 was a lack of preparation for the event.</p> <p>13 Q. So you found later that it was a</p> <p>14 cyber attack or pressure?</p> <p>15 A. I'm not sure of the timing. I can't</p> <p>16 speculate.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you recall writing an article</p> <p>18 about the think tank cancelling the talk?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And was the Hudson Institute</p> <p>21 officials -- were they interviewed for that article?</p>	<p>1 a host of that press conference?</p> <p>2 A. I do not know.</p> <p>3 Q. What was your role during that press</p> <p>4 conference?</p> <p>5 A. I was a moderator for it, and there</p> <p>6 was a translator, and there was Mr. Guo.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember who the translator</p> <p>8 was?</p> <p>9 A. I think it may have been Wui Chungua</p> <p>10 (phonetic).</p> <p>11 Q. The same man who was present during</p> <p>12 your first meeting?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. When you say you moderated, did you</p> <p>15 come with prepared questions for Mr. Guo?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. You just asked questions off the</p> <p>18 cuff?</p> <p>19 A. I'm not even sure it was that. It</p> <p>20 was more an introducer of that, to make an</p> <p>21 introductory remark of some sort.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

Page 113

29 (Pages 110 to 113)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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1 like to meet him. And I said, "Okay, I'll ask if he
 2 wants to meet you." And they eventually met at the
 3 Hay Adams Hotel.

Q. How long had you known Mr. Bannon?

5 A. I had known him a little bit when he
 6 was before the White House, and a little bit while
 7 he was at the White House, but I was not close, but we
 8 shared the same views on China.

Q. Which are what?

10 A. That it's a nuclear armed Communist
 11 dictatorship that poses a threat to the world.

**Q. And you said Mr. Bannon asked you to
 13 make an introduction of him to Mr. Guo?**

14 A. Yes.

**Q. Have he ever met Mr. Guo before, to
 16 your knowledge?**

17 A. I don't know.

**Q. Do you know if they had ever spoken
 19 on the phone?**

20 A. I don't know.

Q. So when Mr. Bannon told you he was

Page 114

1 A. He came to the Hay Adams Hotel where
 2 Guo was staying, and I think we had a lunch meeting
 3 after that.

**Q. And who all was present for that
 5 meeting?**

6 A. If my memory serves correct, it was
 7 Ling Cho Hann and Yang Jain Lie, another dissident,
 8 Chinese dissident.

**Q. I don't know how to spell that but
 10 maybe I can get you to.**

11 A. Y-A-N-G, J-I-A-N, L-I-E.

**Q. And who is that dissident, what is
 13 his role?**

14 A. He is a former imprisoned dissident
 15 from China who now has an organization for dissidents,
 16 Chinese dissidents.

Q. And what is this organized called?

18 A. I'm not sure.

Q. Does he live here in Washington?

20 A. I think it may be Massachusetts.

Q. And why was he at the meeting?

Page 114

1 interested in meeting Mr. Guo, was this in person?

2 A. Yes.

Q. Where was that?

4 A. At his house on Capitol Hill.

**5 Q. Do you remember about when that would
 6 be?**

7 A. I do not.

**8 Q. Before the Press Club visit in
 9 October of 2017?**

10 A. I really can't recall.

**11 Q. Do you have any documents with
 12 Mr. Bannon?**

13 A. No.

**14 Q. How would you typically communicate
 15 with Mr. Bannon?**

16 A. Through text message or phone.

**17 Q. And when you say text message, would
 18 that be Signal?**

19 A. Yes.

**20 Q. And tell me about that first meeting
 21 when you introduced Mr. Guo to Mr. Bannon?**

1 A. I don't know.

Q. Was he there already with Mr. Guo?

3 A. He came with Ling Cho, I believe.

**4 Q. And what was the purpose of that
 5 first introductory meeting?**

6 A. Just to meet Steve Bannon, for Guo to
 7 meet Steve Bannon, former White House strategist.

**8 Q. When you first bought up the idea to
 9 Mr. Guo of him meeting Steve Bannon, what did he say?**

10 A. He said he'd like to meet him.

**11 Q. So what was discussed at that first
 12 meeting?**

13 A. I don't recall.

14 Q. You don't recall anything about it?

15 A. I don't recall. I just have no
 16 recollection of what we talked about.

**17 Q. Did Mr. Bannon ask Mr. Guo questions
 18 about himself, his background?**

19 A. I have no recollection of that.

**20 Q. Do you recall Mr. Guo being
 21 interested in Mr. Bannon's role at the White House?**

Page 115

Page 114

30 (Pages 114 to 117)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you recall Mr. Guo bringing up his 3 asylum application?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Had Mr. Bannon ever brought up with 6 you the fact that Mr. Guo had a pending application 7 for asylum?</p> <p>8 A. I don't know.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you recall writing an article 10 about former Attorney General Jeff Sessions 11 threatening to quit over Mr. Guo?</p> <p>12 A. I do.</p> <p>13 Q. And what were the circumstances 14 surrounding that incident?</p> <p>15 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you ever discuss that incident 17 with Mr. Bannon?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you recall there being a second 20 meeting when Bannon visited Mr. Guo in New York City?</p> <p>21 A. I am not aware of it. I don't know.</p>	<p>1 A. I do not know.</p> <p>2 Q. Have you ever heard of a contract 3 that Mr. Bannon is affiliated with Mr. Guo?</p> <p>4 A. I don't know.</p> <p>5 Q. What is the relationship between 6 Mr. Bannon and Mr. Guo today?</p> <p>7 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: I don't know.</p> <p>9 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>10 Q. Do you know the last time they have 11 spoken?</p> <p>12 A. I do not.</p> <p>13 Q. And after you introduced the two, did 14 you speak with Mr. Guo about his impressions of 15 Mr. Bannon?</p> <p>16 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you recall speaking with 18 Mr. Bannon about his impressions of Mr. Guo?</p> <p>19 A. I do not recall.</p> <p>20 Q. What do you think Mr. Guo brought to 21 the table in relation to Mr. Bannon?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p> <p>1 Q. Were you present for that dinner?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know.</p> <p>3 Q. Have you ever been to Mr. Quo's home 4 when Mr. Bannon was also in attendance?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. I think there was a lunch 6 meeting after the October, 2018 press conference.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, I know about an October, 2017 8 press conference.</p> <p>9 A. No. This was a press conference in 10 2018 announcing the rule of law fund, and we had lunch 11 after at Mr. Quo's house.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. I am familiar with that one.</p> <p>13 Thank you.</p> <p>14 Do you ever recall being at Mr. Quo's house 15 for a dinner with Mr. Bannon?</p> <p>16 A. I do not.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you know whether Mr. Guo was 18 paying Mr. Bannon?</p> <p>19 A. I do not.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you recall know whether Mr. Quo's 21 Rule of Law Society pays Mr. Bannon?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p> <p>1 A. I have no idea.</p> <p>2 Q. Why do you think he wanted to meet 3 him?</p> <p>4 A. I don't know.</p> <p>5 Q. You didn't ever ask him why he wanted 6 you to make the introduction?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you know if Mr. Bannon ever met 9 with Mr. Guo in the White House?</p> <p>10 A. I do not.</p> <p>11 Q. You write in your book about 12 Mr. Bannon's trip to Hong Kong and China three weeks 13 after departing the White House in mid September of 14 2017.</p> <p>15 Do you recall that?</p> <p>16 A. Correct.</p> <p>17 Q. And what do you know about that trip?</p> <p>18 A. I believe that I asked Steve Bannon 19 what he discussed with Wang Qishan. And he said that 20 he discussed that Wang Quishan was interested in 21 globalism and populism.</p>

Page 119

Page 121

31 (Pages 118 to 121)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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1 **Q. Was there some discussion also of
2 economic nationalism during that meeting?**

3 A. I don't recall.

4 **Q. And what else did Mr. Bannon say
5 about that meeting?**

6 A. I have no other recollection.

7 **Q. Do you know how you learned of it?**

8 A. I do not.

9 **Q. Did you interview him when he
10 returned?**

11 A. I did not.

12 **Q. When did you interview him?**

13 A. I don't recall.

14 **Q. So Mr. Bannon went on the record for
15 your book though, correct?**

16 A. We had discussions. I don't remember
17 exactly the form, or place, or when they were.

18 **Q. So you don't remember learning about
19 his trip to China as it was happening?**

20 A. No.

21 **Q. Are you aware that Mr. Bannon gave a**

1 **Q. When you had lunch with Mr. Bannon
2 and Mr. Guo, do you remember Mr. Bannon discussing his
3 China visit with Mr. Guo?**

4 A. I do not.

5 **Q. Do you know who scheduled the meeting
6 with Wang Qishan and Bannon?**

7 A. I do not.

8 **Q. Have you ever heard of John Thornton?**

9 A. I don't know who he is.

10 **Q. You appear to be the first journalist
11 in June of 2017 to report that Mr. Quo's wife and
12 daughter were given a 20 day visa to come to the U.S.
13 that prior month in May, 2017. Do you recall that
14 reporting?**

15 A. I do not.

16 **Q. I think it was in one of our earlier
17 articles, which I don't want to re mark for you, but
18 do you recall anything about the visas given to
19 Mr. Quo's family?**

20 A. I do not.

21 **Q. Have you ever been told about**

Page 122

Page 124

1 **peace speech in Hong Kong to the state international
2 security firm?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **Q. And what do you know about that
5 speech?**

6 A. I don't know anything about it.

7 **Q. Do you know who arranged for his
8 appearance?**

9 A. No.

10 **Q. Did you ever ask him about it?**

11 A. No.

12 **Q. Do you know the purpose of his trip?**

13 A. No.

14 **Q. When he went to China and Hong Kong,
15 was that before or after you introduced him to
16 Mr. Guo?**

17 A. I do not know.

18 **Q. If I represent to you that he
19 traveled there in September of 2017, does that make in
20 any more helpful to you?**

21 A. I don't have a clear recollection.

1 **potential imprisonment or persecution faced by Quo's
2 family back in China?**

3 A. I don't recall any discussion of
4 that.

5 **Q. You don't recall Mr. Guo ever telling
6 you he was afraid for his family?**

7 A. I think he may have said he was
8 afraid for his family, but other than that, I have no
9 recollection of any details.

10 **Q. Have you ever spoken with any of his
11 family members?**

12 A. I have met his daughter.

13 **Q. When was that?**

14 A. I don't know. I don't remember.

15 **Q. And where did you meet her?**

16 A. At the apartment in New York.

17 **Q. Did you speak with her?**

18 A. No. It was just an introduction.

19 **Q. Were you aware that Mr. Guo met with
20 former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson in May of 2017?**

21 A. I don't know. I don't know anything

Page 123

Page 125

32 (Pages 122 to 125)

**Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019**

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<p>1 about that.</p> <p>2 Q. You haven't seen the recording of 3 that, there is a video of that?</p> <p>4 A. I have not.</p> <p>5 Q. And when did you first meet French 6 Wallop?</p> <p>7 A. It was, January, I believe, January 8 of 2017.</p> <p>9 Q. French Wallop?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. And that's when you first met 12 her in your life?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. And when did you first meet 15 Mr. Waller, Michael Waller, who is also here?</p> <p>16 A. I have known Mike since, I believe, 17 he used to work at an affiliate publication of The 18 Washington Times many years ago.</p> <p>19 Q. And what was your first impression of 20 Ms. Wallop?</p> <p>21 A. Well, she said she knew my former</p>	<p>1 programs.</p> <p>2 Q. And do you remember about when that 3 was?</p> <p>4 A. I do not, other than sometime between 5 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you seek out Mr. Waller's help on 7 that effort?</p> <p>8 A. I believe I did.</p> <p>9 Q. And why him?</p> <p>10 A. I believe that he has good skills at 11 doing information.</p> <p>12 If I may explain, the reason that I tried to 13 contact or put French Wallop in touch with Mr. Guo is 14 that, again, because I saw him as an extremely 15 valuable resource, I also saw him as extremely 16 scattered in his presentation.</p> <p>17 His presentations would be on video and they 18 would be talking about a wide variety of topics. And 19 then in the middle of them, he would disclose really 20 valuable information about the inside workings of the 21 Chinese Government and Intelligence Service. And I</p>
Page 126	Page 128

<p>1 editor, Oner Gaborkoff (phonetic), so I took that as 2 credit to her.</p> <p>3 Q. And how would you describe your 4 relationship with Mr. Waller?</p> <p>5 A. We were occasional friends when we 6 worked on a few policy oriented projects based on my 7 book, IWar, which called for reforming U.S. Government 8 information operations.</p> <p>9 Q. What kinds of projects were those?</p> <p>10 A. It was, basically, an idea to bring 11 about a better information capability for the U.S. 12 Government. Right now, the Voice Of America is poorly 13 run. We don't have the U.S. information agency that 14 we had during the Cold War. And so my book, IWar, 15 recommends trying to revitalize some of those 16 functions.</p> <p>17 Q. And how was Mr. Waller to help you in 18 that effort?</p> <p>19 A. We sought to collaborate to present 20 these idea to get either Congress or the 21 administration to develop some type of reform</p>	<p>1 felt that he needed a strategic communications person. 2 And because French Wallop had contacted me 3 when she represented a dissident Russian billionaire 4 named Miguel Kortokofski, who I interviewed, she 5 arranged the interview, I felt that she could provide 6 strategic communication support to Guo, Mr. Guo.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you understand Ms. Wallop to be 8 credible?</p> <p>9 A. To be credible in what sense?</p> <p>10 Q. A credible person you could recommend 11 for Mr. Guo to do business with?</p> <p>12 A. I really didn't know her, I'll be 13 honest to say I really didn't know. Like I said, I 14 was going on her reputation of having known Oner 15 Gaborkoff.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you find her to be honest in her 17 dealings with you?</p> <p>18 A. I guess I would say yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you find her to be sincere?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And when did you first learn of the</p>
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Page 127

Page 129

33 (Pages 126 to 129)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 firm, Strategic Vision?</p> <p>2 A. I can't recall, but it would have to 3 have been based on news reports of this matter.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. So when you introduced Mr. Guo 5 to French and Mike?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't.</p> <p>7 Q. You didn't introduce them?</p> <p>8 A. No. I introduced them to Ling Cho 9 Hann and Evette Wong, and then they made the 10 introduction to Guo. My job was simply to make the 11 connection, and then that was it.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. So when you introduced them to 13 Ling Cho Hann and Ms. Wong, you weren't aware that 14 Ms. Wallop's firm was called Strategic Vision?</p> <p>15 A. Correct.</p> <p>16 Q. You learned that later, the formal 17 name of the firm?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you learn that once the lawsuit 20 was filed?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember when.</p>	<p>1 associates?</p> <p>2 A. I didn't learn it until the first 3 meeting with French on the subject.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you find Mr. Waller to be 5 credible?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you find him to be honest?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you find him to be sincere?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember the first time you 12 introduced to Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller to Ling Cho?</p> <p>13 A. I don't not remember the exact day or 14 circumstances.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you know if it was an in person 16 meeting?</p> <p>17 A. I think it may have been a phone 18 connection given, the connection, and that they would 19 connect them, but I honestly do not remember.</p> <p>20 Q. And you have described the purpose of 21 that introduction being for strategic communication</p>
Page 130	Page 132

Page 131

Page 133

34 (Pages 130 to 133)

**Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019**

Atkinson-Baker, Inc.**www.depo.com**

<p>1 in the Miguel Kortokofski issue, which was early 2 there, and I said that I felt that if she could do for 3 Miguel Kortokofski what she would do for Mr. Guo, that 4 it would be beneficial to him.</p> <p>Q. Did you understand that her services would include research?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>Q. Did Mr. Guo ever discuss with you his goal of hiring someone to conduct research?</p> <p>10 MS. CLINE: Objection to form. 11 THE WITNESS: No. 12 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>Q. Did you negotiate any compensation for your introduction?</p> <p>15 A. No. I think, at one point, there was 16 a suggestion that I would get a finder's fee. And my 17 suggestion was, no, I am not interested in that, but 18 if the collaboration may have involved some important 19 information that could be useful to me as a reporter, 20 that I would be welcome, I would welcome information 21 that would be useful for news reporting.</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>Q. Was that ever part of your discussions with him?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>Q. Was that ever part of your discussions with Ms. Wallop?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>Q. What about with Mr. Waller?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>Q. Others in this case have testified that Mr. Guo communicated with them using What's Ap. Have you ever spoken with him or communicated with him using What's Ap?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>Q. You said, previously, it was just Signal?</p> <p>17 A. Correct.</p> <p>Q. Do you recall who it was who suggested you be given a finder's fee for the introduction?</p> <p>21 A. It may have been French, but it was</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p> <p>Q. So your arrangement was that the fruits of the labor, if any, would flow to you exclusively as a reporter?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>Q. Just that you would have access to that information?</p> <p>7 A. No. It was, again, that I felt that 8 if he had all of this valuable information and if it 9 were packaged properly, it could be made public.</p> <p>10 So that rather than giving an hour and a 11 half video, that he could talk about whatever, his 12 personal food or his exercises, but then he could 13 focus more on the substance of what he wanted to 14 reveal.</p> <p>Q. So your view is Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller would help him with information he already had, packaging his story and his information?</p> <p>18 A. Correct.</p> <p>Q. Were you surprised -- would you be surprised to learn that he wanted them to conduct research on third parties?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p> <p>1 more of a suggestion rather than anything.</p> <p>2 Again, I said that I wasn't interested in any fee, but 3 that I was more interested in getting the message out 4 and getting information.</p> <p>Q. Do you remember what you told Ling Cho Hann about the purpose of the first meeting with Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller?</p> <p>8 A. To my recollection, it was what I had 9 said, was we have seen from Mr. Guo a very powerful 10 message, but, again, somewhat disjointed in its 11 presentation, and that it was my hope that having a 12 strategic communications professional or 13 professionals, that it would help him to present his 14 information in a much more powerful way.</p> <p>Q. Did Ling Cho Hann agree?</p> <p>16 A. I think he did.</p> <p>Q. Did he ever mention to you that Mr. Guo needed research help?</p> <p>19 A. He did not.</p> <p>Q. Did Ms. Wong ever mention to you that Mr. Guo was looking for a research firm?</p>

Page 135

Page 137

35 (Pages 134 to 137)

**Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019**

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<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you have any concerns introducing</p> <p>3 Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller to Mr. Guo?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you believe that, as originally</p> <p>6 conceived, the project would be benefiting him</p> <p>7 personally?</p> <p>8 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: What project?</p> <p>10 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:</p> <p>11 Q. The project of hiring Ms. Wallop and</p> <p>12 Mr. Waller, do you believe that was to be conveyed to</p> <p>13 Mr. Guo as a personal benefit?</p> <p>14 A. I don't know.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you envision that their efforts</p> <p>16 would help him obtain asylum?</p> <p>17 A. I don't know.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you recall Mr. Guo ever discussing</p> <p>19 with you if Ms. Wallop could be helpful in him seeking</p> <p>20 asylum?</p> <p>21 A. I don't recall.</p>	<p>1 progress of those?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Did he ever report to you about how</p> <p>4 the partnership was going?</p> <p>5 A. No. I think, at one point, he asked</p> <p>6 me if he should do this contract. And, again, I had</p> <p>7 no knowledge about the contract. I believed that it</p> <p>8 was a strategic communications vehicle.</p> <p>9 And he asked me if he should do the</p> <p>10 contract. And my response to him was, I would do it</p> <p>11 maybe month to month or three months as a trial period</p> <p>12 to see how it goes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did he show it to you when he asked</p> <p>14 you about it, did he send you a copy of what was</p> <p>15 proposed?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Did he tell you how much the contract</p> <p>18 cost?</p> <p>19 A. I don't believe so.</p> <p>20 Q. Have you since learned the value of</p> <p>21 the contract?</p>
Page 138	Page 140

Page 139	Page 141
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36 (Pages 138 to 141)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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1 **Q. You said earlier you hadn't learned**
 2 **of the Eastern Profit until this lawsuit, correct?**
 3 A. Correct.
 4 **Q. How much do you know about the**
 5 **contract's performance?**
 6 A. I don't know anything.
 7 **Q. Do you remember ever discussing with**
 8 **Ms. Wallop Mr. Quo's need for research services on**
 9 **third parties?**
 10 A. I do not.
 11 **Q. Did you ever remember seeing a list**
 12 **of individuals who Mr. Guo wanted specific research**
 13 **and surveillance on?**
 14 A. No.
 15 **Q. So do you have any knowledge of the**
 16 **contract's performance after the contract was signed?**
 17 A. At a certain point, I don't remember
 18 when, Mr. Guo came to me with some material. And it
 19 was a printout of some -- what appeared to be data,
 20 and I had no idea what it was.
 21 And he said that this has been what they had

Page 142

1 **Q. Did you ever ask to see a copy of the**
 2 **contract?**
 3 A. No.
 4 MS. LUETKEMEYER: We can take a break to
 5 change the tape.
 6 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
 7 record. This is the end of Media Unit No. 1. The
 8 time is 2:06 p.m.
 9 (Short Recess.)
 10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on the
 11 record. This is the beginning of Media Unit No. 2.
 12 The time is 2:20 p.m.
 13 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:
 14 **Q. Mr. Gertz, have you ever heard of an**
 15 **entity called ASOG, in Texas?**
 16 A. No.
 17 **Q. It stands for Allied Special**
 18 **Operations Group?**
 19 A. I don't know it.
 20 **Q. Have you ever heard of an individual**
 21 **named Adam Craft?**

Page 144

1 produced. And I expressed surprise since I was
 2 unaware of this data, whatever research project, and
 3 that he showed it to me, and I was like, well, what am
 4 I supposed to do with that? I don't know.
 5 **Q. And what did he say about it?**
 6 A. He felt that it was not what he
 7 wanted. I mean, I got the impression that he felt
 8 that this wasn't what he had expected.
 9 **Q. And what did he tell you he expected?**
 10 A. He didn't say.
 11 **Q. Was he asking you to communicate to**
 12 **Ms. Wallop and Mr. Waller about the material?**
 13 A. No.
 14 **Q. Just sharing with you what he had**
 15 **received?**
 16 A. Yes.
 17 **Q. Do you remember when that was?**
 18 A. I do not.
 19 **Q. Where was that meeting, was that at**
 20 **his apartment?**
 21 A. Yes.

Page 143

1 A. No.
 2 **Q. Has Mr. Guo ever asked you to review**
 3 **his paperwork related to his asylum claim?**
 4 A. No.
 5 **Q. Have you ever seen a draft of it?**
 6 A. No.
 7 **Q. Whenever we speak earlier in the**
 8 **deposition about Mr. Je, do you know what his company**
 9 **name is?**
 10 A. I do not.
 11 **Q. And you described him as a financier,**
 12 **do you remember that?**
 13 A. A fund manager, financier, financial
 14 specialist, is my understanding.
 15 **Q. When you say financial specialist,**
 16 **what do you mean?**
 17 A. He is wealthy.
 18 **Q. Is he an investor?**
 19 A. I don't know.
 20 **Q. And who is he to Mr. Guo?**
 21 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation.

Page 145

37 (Pages 142 to 145)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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1 THE WITNESS: My understanding is that
 2 they are friends, that they have no formal ties, and
 3 that Mr. Je is a supporter, in a political sense, of
 4 Mr. Guo.

5 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER:

6 **Q. Is Mr. Je also a financial backer of
 7 Mr. Guo?**

8 A. Not that I am aware of.

9 **Q. Are you aware of him providing
 10 financial assistance to anyone else in the United
 11 States?**

12 A. No.

13 **Q. Does he provide financial assistance
 14 to the Rule of Law Society?**

15 A. I don't know.

16 **Q. Do you know the source of his funds
 17 that he paid to you?**

18 A. I think it was a sovereign wealth
 19 fund of some sort in the Middle East.

20 **Q. Did you ask him about that before he
 21 transferred the money?**

1 A. I don't know.

2 **Q. Did you do any research to see what
 3 it meant?**

4 A. No.

5 **Q. Did you do any research or vetting of
 6 Mr. Je before you entered into this transaction with
 7 him?**

8 A. No.

9 **Q. Do you have any idea of how he makes
 10 his money, besides being a financier?**

11 A. I don't know.

12 **Q. You don't know what countries he
 13 invests in?**

14 A. I do not.

15 **Q. Do you have any reason to believe
 16 that funding may have come from Saudi Arabia?**

17 A. I do not.

18 **Q. Did Mr. Guo ever discuss the source
 19 of Mr. Je's wealth with you?**

20 A. No.

21 **Q. Have you ever visited Mr. Je at his**

Page 146

Page 148

1 A. My main thing was, yes, where did it
 2 come from. He said it was a sovereign wealth fund in
 3 the Middle East, I can't remember where, and that it
 4 was completely separate from Mr. Quo's funds.

5 **Q. When did you ask him about that?**

6 A. Around the time that he made the
 7 loan.

8 **Q. Was it before or after he sent the
 9 money?**

10 A. I think it was before.

11 **Q. And why would you have asked him
 12 about whether or not it was separate from Mr. Guo?**

13 A. I was just curious. He had asked for
 14 the bank transfer information. It involved an
 15 international transfer.

16 **Q. So do you have an understanding that
 17 he put the money into your Bank of America account,
 18 but it came from an international fund?**

19 A. As best as I can tell.

20 **Q. And what does "sovereign wealth fund"
 21 mean?**

1 **home?**

2 A. No.

3 **Q. Do you know where all he keeps a
 4 residence?**

5 A. I don't.

6 **Q. And when is the last time you spoke
 7 with him?**

8 A. I can't recall.

9 **Q. What's your best guess?**

10 A. I can't guess.

11 **Q. Sometime this calendar year?**

12 A. Yes, probably. I don't know, the
 13 last six months.

14 **Q. Have you spoken with him in the last
 15 few weeks?**

16 A. I can't recall.

17 **Q. Is he aware of the change in your
 18 status at The Free Beacon?**

19 A. Yes.

20 **Q. And how did he become aware of that?**

21 A. I think I told him.

Page 147

Page 149

38 (Pages 146 to 149)

Bill Gertz
 October 15, 2019

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<p>1 Q. So that would have had to be in the 2 last few weeks? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Was that over the phone? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. And how did that conversation begin? 7 A. Just that I was moving on from the 8 Free Beacon. 9 Q. Was he ever contacted by The Free 10 Beacon? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Was he ever contacted by anyone else? 13 A. I don't know. 14 Q. And last Friday, there was an article 15 on Buzz Week published about your departure from The 16 Free Beacon. 17 Did you see that article? 18 A. I saw it. 19 Q. And did speak with the reporter, 20 Ms. Gray, for that article? 21 A. No. </p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And what did he say? 3 A. I can't recall. I don't remember how 4 he responded. 5 Q. This is in the last few weeks though, 6 right? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. And you don't remember what he said 9 to you? 10 A. No. 11 Q. Did he express surprise that you were 12 being asked to leave because of his interaction with 13 you? 14 A. I think he said to me, again, that 15 this was unfair because the money did not come from 16 Mr. Guo. 17 Q. Did he offer to contact your editors 18 for you? 19 A. I don't think so, no. 20 Q. Did you ask him to do that? 21 A. No. </p>
Page 150	Page 152

Page 153

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. You expect royalties to come within</p> <p>3 six months of publishing the book?</p> <p>4 A. Six months to a year.</p> <p>5 Q. And based on your agreement with him,</p> <p>6 will you be paying him any interest?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Did he ever suggest that you pay him</p> <p>9 interest?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you expect the royalties from your</p> <p>12 book to exceed the amount of the financial support he</p> <p>13 gave you?</p> <p>14 A. I hope it will.</p> <p>15 Q. Has this incident impacted your</p> <p>16 promotional and book tour?</p> <p>17 A. Not so far.</p> <p>18 Q. You have had no appearances</p> <p>19 cancelled?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Have you appeared on any TV or radio</p>	<p>1 repay all of the money to Mr. Je?</p> <p>2 A. Very confident.</p> <p>3 Q. When do you think that will occur?</p> <p>4 A. I can't say.</p> <p>5 Q. If you do not make \$100,000 from your</p> <p>6 book royalties, would you and your wife pay Mr. Je</p> <p>7 back from your own funds?</p> <p>8 A. That would be a discussion we'd have,</p> <p>9 if that were to come up.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you and Mr. Je ever discuss the</p> <p>11 possibility that your royalties might not exceed his</p> <p>12 loan?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Has Mr. Je contacted you since you</p> <p>15 last spoke to him, in the last few weeks?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you have any written communication</p> <p>18 with Mr. Je?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Just the e mail you referenced</p> <p>21 earlier regarding the terms of this agreement?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

Page 157

40 (Pages 154 to 157)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 A. I guess it would have been Friday 2 the Friday, or two or three Fridays ago. 3 Q. Any idea why they waited to announce 4 it until this Friday? 5 A. I do not know. 6 Q. Did they tell you they were going to 7 make a public statement on their website? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Did you have any input into what that 10 statement said? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Did you object to it? 13 A. No. 14 Q. Did they give you an advance copy of 15 what it would say? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. And that was over e mail? 18 A. Um hum. 19 Q. Did you speak with Mr. Guo about this 20 incident with The Free Beacon? 21 A. I did not.</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you ever give him permission to 2 publish or talk about you on Guo Media? 3 A. I'm sorry? 4 Q. Did you speak with Mr. Guo about him 5 using your name on Guo Media; did he ever ask for 6 permission to do so? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Are you aware that you have ever been 9 mentioned on Guo Media? 10 A. I don't know. 11 Q. How often do you, if ever, tune in to 12 Guo Media and look at the videos? 13 A. Occasionally, if there is a video 14 that has been translated into English, if someone 15 tweets about it or something. 16 Q. Occasionally, they will have 17 subtitles at the bottom in English? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Did you ever appear with Guo on one 20 of his videos? 21 A. No.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p> <p>1 Q. Do you know if he is aware of it? 2 A. I do not. 3 Q. Did The Free Beacon editors ask you 4 for your bank records? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Are you familiar with Guo Media? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. And what is it? 9 A. I believe it's the platform that 10 Mr. Guo uses for his presentations, and talks, and 11 speeches. 12 Q. Like on You Tube, and things like 13 that? 14 A. I believe it's a website. 15 Q. Okay. And what's the purpose of it? 16 MS. CLINE: Objection, foundation. 17 THE WITNESS: It's a place for him to 18 give speeches and talks. 19 BY MS. LUETKEMEYER: 20 Q. To get his message out? 21 A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p> <p>1 Q. Did he ever ask you to? 2 A. No. 3 Q. Are you familiar are Ming Jing Media, 4 Mirror Media? 5 A. I think it is a dissident Chinese 6 publication in New York, but I am not certain. 7 Q. Do you know of any PR firms or social 8 media firms Mr. Guo has hired? 9 A. I do not. 10 Q. Do you know of any PR firms or social 11 media firms that the Rule of Law Foundation has hired? 12 A. I do not. 13 Q. What about the Rule of Law Society? 14 A. I don't know. 15 Q. Have you ever heard of the firm BLJ 16 Worldwide, a firm known as Brown, Lloyd, and James? 17 A. I have not. 18 Q. Has Mr. Guo ever talked to you about 19 his media plan? 20 A. No. 21 Q. Do you know of any other research</p>

Page 163

Page 165

42 (Pages 162 to 165)

Bill Gertz
 October 15, 2019

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<p>1 to you?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. You said there have been two Rule of</p> <p>4 Law Society phone conferences, correct, that you can</p> <p>5 recall?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And you said there were maybe two or</p> <p>8 three other people on those calls beside you and</p> <p>9 Mr. Bannon?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. How long did those calls</p> <p>12 approximately last?</p> <p>13 A. Maybe 20 minutes.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you recall who did the bulk of the</p> <p>15 talking?</p> <p>16 A. I do not.</p> <p>17 Q. And is there an e mail chain or a</p> <p>18 list serve where you can all communicate with one</p> <p>19 another?</p> <p>20 A. I don't recall how the communication</p> <p>21 is. It might be an e mail. It might be a text. I</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know if those are American</p> <p>2 citizens?</p> <p>3 A. Yes. Yes, I mean I'm trying to</p> <p>4 remember. I honestly can't recall and I don't want to</p> <p>5 speculate.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you recall if they are men or</p> <p>7 women?</p> <p>8 A. I think they are women.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you know if one of them is named</p> <p>10 Karen Mitchello?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you know, is Evette Wong one of</p> <p>13 them?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Have you ever met Karen Mitchello in</p> <p>16 person?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. And Who is Karen Mitchello?</p> <p>19 A. I believe she is an assistant to</p> <p>20 someone in Guo Media perhaps.</p> <p>21 Q. And where did you meet her?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p> <p>1 don't know.</p> <p>2 Q. You just receive a call in number and</p> <p>3 you call it?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. And you don't have any inclination of</p> <p>6 the other two members of that society?</p> <p>7 A. I don't.</p> <p>8 Q. You were on the phone with them</p> <p>9 twice?</p> <p>10 A. It would have been twice, it would</p> <p>11 have been once.</p> <p>12 Q. Was Kyle Bass one of the other</p> <p>13 members of that society?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. He is a member of the foundation, to</p> <p>16 your knowledge?</p> <p>17 A. I believe it's the foundation.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. But the society has two</p> <p>19 unnamed members you can't recall, you and Mr. Bannon,</p> <p>20 correct?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p> <p>1 A. I met her at the Rule of Law Building</p> <p>2 in New York. They have a building for the Rule of Law</p> <p>3 Society meetings.</p> <p>4 Q. And so the meetings are at a</p> <p>5 building, but they are on the phone?</p> <p>6 A. Well, they are held there for people</p> <p>7 that are there, or they are on the phone. That's how</p> <p>8 they do it. So people that are in the building are</p> <p>9 there, and people who call in.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you call in or were you present</p> <p>11 at the building?</p> <p>12 A. I think I called in. I can't really</p> <p>13 remember. I remember being in the building, but I</p> <p>14 don't remember being in for a meeting. It's just not</p> <p>15 clear to me.</p> <p>16 Q. When you were in the building, that's</p> <p>17 when you met Karen Mitchello?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you know whether she is also</p> <p>20 involved in Mr. Quo's other businesses?</p> <p>21 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.</p>

Page 171

Page 173

44 (Pages 170 to 173)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019

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<p>1 in this case?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Have you had a conversation with</p> <p>4 Mr. Je about paying for your lawyer in this case?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know what year Mr. Guo was</p> <p>7 born?</p> <p>8 A. I do not.</p> <p>9 Q. Are you aware there is some dispute</p> <p>10 about his actual birth date?</p> <p>11 A. I am not aware.</p> <p>12 Q. Have you ever talked to him about his</p> <p>13 early years in China?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. You spoke very briefly about you</p> <p>16 meeting Mr. Quo's daughter?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Where does she live?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you speak with her when you met</p> <p>21 her at his house?</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you contact Mr. Hann in the last</p> <p>2 week and ask him to reach out to Mr. Waller and</p> <p>3 Ms. Wallop about this deposition?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Would you be surprised to know that</p> <p>6 he says that he talked to you about it on Sunday?</p> <p>7 A. He called me on Sunday and asked me</p> <p>8 if I needed help. And I said I don't need help, I had</p> <p>9 a lawyer.</p> <p>10 Q. Did he tell you he would be</p> <p>11 communicating with Mr. Waller and Ms. Wallop about it?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. So it would be surprising for you to</p> <p>14 hear about that?</p> <p>15 MS. CLINE: Objection to form.</p> <p>16 Q. Have you ever heard of Celestial</p> <p>17 Holdings?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Just one second. Did you review the</p> <p>20 subpoena for documents that we sent you before this</p> <p>21 deposition?</p>
Page 178	Page 180

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1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
2 record at 2:53 p.m., and this concludes today's
3 testimony of Bill Gertz. The total number of media
4 units used was two.

5 (The deposition concluded at 2:53 p.m.)

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Page 186

1 CERTIFICATION OF NOTARY
2 I, Jackie Smith, the officer before whom the
3 foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that
4 witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing
5 deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of
6 said witness was taken by me stenographically and
7 thereafter reduced to typewriting; that said
8 deposition is a true record of the testimony given by
9 said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related
10 to, or employed by any of the parties to the action in
11 which this deposition is taken; and further, that I am
12 not a relative or employee of any attorney employed
13 by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise
14 interested in the outcome of the action.

15 _____
16 Jackie Smith
17 Notary Public
18 My Commission Expires: 3-30-2020
19
20
21

Page 187

48 (Pages 186 to 187)

Bill Gertz
October 15, 2019